

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
TO SESCSTATE WASHDC 1324
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MARSEILLE 0066

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF MINICIPAL ELECTION IN LEADING
CITIES OF THE CONSULAR DISTRICT

1. SUMMARY. AT THIS JUNCTURE, SOME FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, OUR SURVEY OF THE TWELVE LEADING POPULATION CENTERS IN OUR TEN DEPARTMENTS REVEALS CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS BUT FEW SIGNS OF PROBABLE REAL CHANGE AT ELECTION TIME. THE PROGRAM COMMUN DE LA GAUCHE HAS BEEN APPLIED IN ALL BUT THE THREE LEADING CITIES, (MARSEILLE, AIX-EN-PROVENCE, TOULON.) IN MOST CASES (10) THE INCUMBENT MAYORS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS (3 SOCIALIST, 1 COMMUNIST, 5 MAJORITE, 1 APOLITIQUE) APPEAR LIKELY TO RETAIN THEIR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. AT TOULON, THE PROGRAM COMMUN DIED ABORNING AND THERE IS CONTINUING POWER- PLAY SCRAPPING BY LEADERSHIP FUGURES WITHIN LEFT AND RIGHT CAMPS LEAVING THE ISSUE IN TOTAL DOUBT. IN CARCASSONE, THE LEFT MAINTAINS ITS TRADITIONAL LEAD BUT THERE ARE SIGNS OF TILTING TO THE RIGHT AS A
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RESULT OF GROWING CONCERN OVER THE INCLUSION, AT PCF INSISTENCE, OF SOME MORE STRONGLY DOCTRINAIRE COMMUNISTS IN THE COMBINED LIST.

2. MARSEILLE - MAYOR DEFFERRE APPEARS TO BE FIRMLY IN PLACE FOR REELECTION ON THE SOCIALIST LIST WHICH HE CONTINUES TO KEEP SEPARATE FROM THAT OF THE COMMUNISTS.

THE LATTER ROUNDLY CRITICIZE HIM FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE "PROGRAMME COMMUN DE LA GAUCHE". BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE COMMUNISTS COULD BENEFIT MORE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS FROM SEPARATE LISTS. THIS THESIS HOLDS THAT A COMBINED LIST WOULD PRODUCE LESS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR DEFFERRE AND COMPANY DUE TO DESERTIONS BY MODERATES WHO WILL VOTE FOR THE SOCIALISTS ON A SEPARATE LIST BUT WOULD TURN THEIR BACKS ON A COMBINED LIST INCLUDING COMMUNISTS: DEFFERRE, TO PLACATE THE COMMUNISTS ALREADY HAS HAD TO STATE PUBLICLY THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTAIN COMMUNISTS. WHILE HE IS QUIET ON HOW MANY THEY MIGHT BE AND WHERE PLACED, THE CONSENSUS IS THAT HE WILL MAKE MORE THAT TOKEN GESTURES BY PLACING SOME COMMUNISTS IN VISIBLE IF NOT KEY PLACES IN HIS ADMINISTRATION.

3. AIX-EN-PROVENCE DOES NOT HAVE A "PROGRAMME COMMUN DE LA GAUCHE". FELIX CICCOLINI, SENATEUR OF BOUCHES-DU-RHONE AND THE SOCIALIST LEADER OF HIS PARTY S LIST IS EXPECTED TO RETAIN HIS MAYORIAL SEAT. HIS OPPONENTS ARE ALAIN JOISSAINS, RADICAL, WHO WILL PROBABLY LEAD THE MAJORITE LIST, AND, OF LESSER COMPETITIVE STRENGTH, YVES KLEMIEC OR MR. JEAN COLLOMB, ONE OF WHOM PROBABLY WILL HEAD THE COMMUNIST LIST.

4. IN MONTPELLIER, THE HERAULT, THE REDOUTABLE ENCUMBENT MAYOR, FRANCOIS DELMAS, (CNI) WILL BE THE LEADER OF THE LIST BEARING HIS NAME. ALTHOUGH THE LEFT S PROGRAMME COMMUN IS APPLIED AT MONTPELLIER, ITS LEADER, GEORGES FRECHE, SOCIALIST, A DEPUTE OF THE HERAULT, DOESN T UNCLASSIFIED

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APPEAR TO BE COMPETITIVE THREAT TO DELMAS WHO PROBABLY WILL RETAIN THE TRADITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT AND MAJORITE WHICH TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL FORCE IN THIS CITY.

5. BEZIERS, HERAULT S SECOND RANKING TOWN, ALSO HAS A PROGRAMME COMMUN, BUT RADICAL MAYOR AND MINISTRE DU COMMERCE, PIERRE BROUSSE, IS EXPECTED TO RETAIN HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF THE LEADING MAJORITE LIST. HIS MAIN OPPOSITION COMES FROM PAUL BALMIGERE, A DEPUTE OF THE HERAULT AND COMMUNIST LEADER OF THE COMBINED LIST, WITH A FAR LESSER OPPOSITION ROLE BEING PLAYED BY MAITRE GUIGUES, AN APOLITIAUE WHOSE LIST WILL HAVE NO POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

6. TOULON: RIGHT AND LEFT GROUPS ARE BESET BY INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT IN THIS IMPORTANT CITY. THOUGH EARLY SIGNS POINTED TO A PROGRAMME COMMUN DE LA GAUCHE, IT DIED ABORNING DUE TO IN-FIGHTING AMONG SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. THE CURRENT MAYOR, MAURICE ARRECKX, TECHNICALLY WITH AND RI LABEL BUT

FORMING IN REALITY AN APOLITICAL LIST, IS BEING CHALLENGED AT TWO FRONTS ON THE RIGHT. ONE IS YOUNG, ACTIVE AYMERIC SIMON-LORRIERE (RPR) CURRENTLY DEPUTE DU VAR AND MAYOR OF STE MAXIME. THE OTHER IS DR. HENRI ARION, THE PREVIOUS PRESIDENT OF TOULON S RI PARTY WHO EARLY HAD SUPPORTED ARRECKX BUT WAS DISPLACED BY HIM AS RI PRESIDENT WHEN THE MAYOR RECENTLY SHIFTED FROM AN " APOLITICAL" TO AN"RI" IMAGE. THUS STUNG, ARION WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT AND EMBARKED ON ORGANIZING HIS OWN " APOLITIQUE" LIST WHICH HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF WINNING BUT CAN CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ARRECKX ON THE FIRST TOUR. TO COMPLICATE THE ISSUE FURTHER FOR THE VOTERS, MADAME ODETTE COLIN, MEMBER OF AN OLD TOULONNAISE FAMILY, HAS DECLARED HER INTENTION TO HEAD AN ECOLOGY LIST. THE UPSHOT OF ALL THIS IS A PROBABLE SIX LISTS FOR THE FIRST TOUR, ONE EACH FOR THE SOCIALISTS, THE COMMUNISTS, SIMON-LORRIERE (RPR), ARRECKX (RI) ARION (APOLITIQUE) AND COLIN (ECOLOGY). AT THIS TIME IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHICH GROUP HAS THE BEST PROSPECTS.

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POPULAR NON-POLITICAL LOCAL FIGURE, RETIRED ADMIRAL

ANTOINE SANGUINETTI, HAS BEEN ASKED TO HEAD THE SOCIALIST LIST. IF HE DOES SO IT IS THOUGHT THAT SOCIALIST LIST WILL HAVE A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF WINNING THE FINAL ELECTIONS IN TOULON.

7. AT NIMES, MAYOR EMILE JOURDAN IS COMMUNIST. A COMMON LIST OF THE LEFT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, TO FACE A SECOND LIST COMPRISING THE MAJORITE. AT THIS TIME, BOTH LISTS SEEM TO HAVE AN APPROXIMATELY EQUAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS. IF THE LEFT WINS, MAYOR JOURDAN WILL RETAIN HIS SEAT.

8. AVIGNON S SOCIALIST MAYOR, HENRI DUFFAUT, HEADS THE JOINT SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST LIST WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE A SLIGHT EDGE OVER THE COMPETITION. THE OPPOSITION CONSISTS OF JEAN-PIERRE ROUX, FORMER DEPUTE OF VAUCLUSE,(RPR), THE LEADER OF THE RPR-RI LIST, AND RENE DUBOIS HEADING THE LIST RADICAL-INDEPENDENT PAYSANS. HIS LECTION SUCCESS SEEMED PROBABLE UNTIL A RECENT MOVE BY THE COMMUNISTS TO REPLACE SOME OF THE MODERATE LEFTISTS ON THE LIST BY MORE DOCTRINAIRE
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INDIVIDUALS. DUFFAUT DID NOT, BUT IN TURN STIRRED UP CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION AMONG THE LARGE GROUP OF MODERATES UPON WHICH HE HAD COUNTED FOR SUCCESS. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF HE WILL BE ABLE TO RETAIN THEIR LOYALTY AT THE POLLS. IF HE CANNOT, THE FIRST TOUR WOULD BE WON BY THE MAJORITE LIST. DUFFAUT RECENTLY HAD A HEART ATTACK THE EFFECTS OF WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO FORCE HIM TO GIVE UP HIS CURRENT SEAT AS A DEPUTE OF THE VAUCLUSE IF HE CONTINUES AS MAYOR AFTER THE MUNICIPALES.

9. THE PICTURE AT ALBI, CHEF-LIEU OF TARN, IN UNCLEAR. THE LISTS PROBABLY WILL BE ESTABLISHED ONLY JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR TWO LISTS: CENTER (MAJORITE) AND A COMMON LIST OF THE LEFT. PRESENT SIGNS POINT TO INCUMBENT MAYOR, LAURENT MATHIEU, RPR, RETAINING HIS POSITION.

10. PERPIGNAN - THE "PROGRAMME DOMMON" IS APPLIED HERE. MAYOR PAUL ALDUY, A DEPITE OF PYRENEES ORIENTALES, UNTIL RECENTLY WAS SOCIALIST. HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO HAVE ANY PCF MEMBERS ON THE LIST WITH HIM, HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE SOCIALIST PARTY. UNDAUNTED, AS APOLITICAL LEADER OF THE LIST " DEFENSE DES INTERETS COMMUNAUX" HE IS SEEKING TO RETAIN HIS SEAT AS MAYOR AND IS BELIVED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO DO SO. HIS MAIN OPPONENTS ARE DR. RENE ARGELLIES, RADICAL DE GAUCKE, LEADER OF THE LIST UNION DE LQ GQUCHE, AND DR. L. CAMO, RADICAL, WHO HEADS THE LESS SIGNIFICANT MAJORITE LIST.

11. AT RODEZ, CHEF-LIEU OF AVEYRON, THREE LISTS APPEAR
LIKELY, TWO RIGHT AND ONE LEFT. MONSIEUR J. SALVAN, AN
ARCHITECT, WHO HEADS THE LEFTISTS, IS THOUGHT TO HAVE NO
CHANCE. ON THE RIGHT, A DR. VESCO, CENTRIST, HAS SOMEWHAT
MORE SUPPORT BUT TOO LITTLE TO BRING HIS LIST TO VICTORY
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ON THE FIRST TOUR. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT ENCUMBENT
SENATEUR AND MAYOR M. ROLAND BOSCARY-MONSSERVIN (RI) AND HIS
SUPPORTERS WILL RETAIN THEIR LEADERSHIP POSITION.

12. CARCASSONE: THERE ARE SOME SIGNS OF A CHANGE. MAYOR
ANTOINE GAYRAUD, SOCIALIT, A DEPUTE OF THE AUDE, IS THE
LEADER OF THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE LIST. THE MAJORITE GROUP
IS LED BY RAYMON CHARA, RPR, WHO IS EXPECTED TO GIVE
GAYRAUD S UNION LIST VERY STRONG COMPETITION AND IT IS
NOT CLEAR WHO WILL WIN THIS CLOSE RACE. EVIDENCE OF A DRAWING AWAY
FROM THE LEFT IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE SUCCESS FORMER ADJOINT
MAYOR GEORGES PORTES (RADICAL DE GAUCHE) HAS HAD IN
ATTRACTING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR A THIRD LIST
HE FORMED:" GERONS NOTRE VILLE" AFTER HE DESERTED MAYOR
GAYRAUD S LIST BECAUSE IT INCLUDES COMMUNISTS: HOWEVER, HIS LIST
IS NOT EXPECTED TO WIN.

13. IN MENDE, CHEF-LIEU OF LOZERE, THE CONSULATE S LEAST
POPULOUS DEPARTMENT, THE SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. IT APPEARS THAT
THREE LISTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED: ONE FOR THE LEFT - WHICH
HERE HAS A COMMON PROGRAM, AND TWO FOR THE RIGHT

ONE OF THE LATTER PROBABLY WILL BE HEADED BY CYRRENT
MAYOR, M. TEMOLET DE VILLIERS, (CNI) WHO SEEMS TO HAVE
THE MAJOR LOCAL SUPPORT, AND THE OTHER BY M. PIERRE COUDERC
(RI), A DEPUTE OF LOZERE, WHO DOESN T POSE A SIGNIFICANT
PROBLEM TO THE MAYOR S LIST AT THIS TIME. MEIMA

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